

By joining the Friends, you help fund the programs, events, projects, and materials not included in the Library budget.

Consider these “extras” — how much they add to the Library’s value and fulfill its potential to serve, enrich, and inspire our community.

Art Workshops (preschoolers to senior citizens)

“Let’s Pretend” (ages 6-36 months)

“Telling Tales” (ages 3-6 years)

Summer Reading Game for school-age children

Adult and Children’s Book Clubs

“Storylining: Making Maps with Stories”
(ages 7-12)

Author Talks

Short Story Reading Group

“Read, Watch, Discuss” film/book series

“Stories That Speak” read-aloud series

“The Gamut” Annual Lecture Series

“Write Now” Creative Writing Workshop

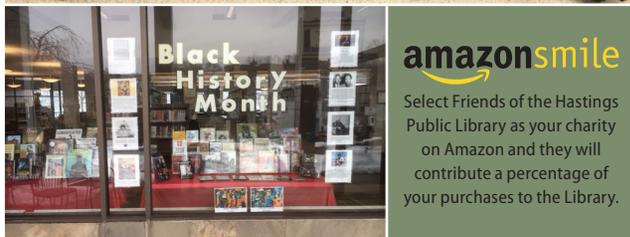
Knitting Groups for Kids & Adults

Corner Book Shop

Used Book Sales

Holiday Giftique

Annual Gala (tba)



Friends of the Hastings Public Library



Every day our dauntless volunteers muster ingenuity and imagination to help the Library fulfill its promise of access, service, and opportunity.
Join us today.



September 2021

Dear Neighbor,

Now we know — how the Friends of the Hastings Public Library can turn on a dime, sink or swim, meet the moment. We have partnered up, doubled down, and literally rolled up our sleeves to take on unforeseen, unimaginable challenges. And what we also know, indisputably, is that the Library, our *raison d'être*, has never been more essential.

Over the past 17 months, our dauntless volunteers have mustered ingenuity and imagination to help the Library fulfill its promise of access, service, and opportunity. None of it has come easily, but it has brought comfort, engagement, and relief when most needed.

During the best and worst of times, the Friends subsidize Library programs and projects that support a vibrant, diverse community. And while our singularly democratic institution can't guarantee liberty and justice for all, it does have an excellent track record on privilege; it is the same for everyone, and available to all. Knitting lessons and art workshops, virtual story times and Zoom author talks, outdoor used book sales and online book groups — thank the Friends for making them possible.

This year the Friends-sponsored Summer Reading Game delighted 75 to 100 kids. Our "Stories That Speak" series, a collaborative read-aloud initiative that introduces children to multiculturalism, resumes this fall. The Friends-run Corner Book Shop has been restocked, offering an ever-changing array of hardcovers, paperbacks, and DVDs for a song. And a coming attraction (in one format or another, as health measures allow) is the ever-popular Dewey lecture series, which we, recoiling from the namesake's transgressions, have retitled "The Gamut."

Another change of interest is the "Donate" feature on the Library's website. You can now pay for your tax-deductible Friends membership day or night, from your car, the ball field, or bed. Just an added incentive to invest in a precious village asset.

We had hoped this letter would be about the "aftermath" — of both the pandemic and the rancor that have upended our lives and fractured this land. Instead, you have our word that we will rise to — and dare we say temper? — the tumult. Whatever lies ahead, the Friends will champion curiosity and connection, and, for as long as the Library doors are open, promote an atmosphere of civility and calm.

Be a Friend. Strengthen the Library and its ideals: along with so much else, it's those we truly share.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michèle Ankuda".

Michèle Ankuda
President
Friends of the Hastings Public Library

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